

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

6/2/77 1820 *Chapman*

INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

*DD 164*

FROM  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

**UNCLASSIFIED**

11652:  
TAGS:  
SUBJECT:  
  
ACTION:

GDS  
PFGR SHUM AR  
GOA Official Proposes US-Argentine Dialogue on Human Rights

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

**[REDACTED]** BUENOS AIRES 4083

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1. At luncheon June 1 Minister Juan Carlos Arlia, who is now Foreign Ministry's deputy coordinator of foreign policy as well as director of the human rights working group, surprised us by asserting that ~~Arget~~ Argentine Government agrees with what Carter administration is attempting to ~~accomplish~~ accomplish in the human rights area. Taking as point of departure his conversations with human rights coordinator Patricia Derian in March, Arlia said that GOA understood MX USG was interested in promoting human rights observance and solution to Argentina's terrorism and security problems in a cooperative and positive manner, rather than continuing the negative sanctions route. Arlia said that GOA was greatly disappointed when Assistant Secretary Todman had to cancel his visit inasmuch as ~~X~~ Argentines were looking forward to initiating a 'very important dialogue' on this subject.

REPTED BY:  
A/POLOUS-A/Free: jr

DRAFTING DATE  
6/2/77

TEL. EXT.  
121

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVE  
CHARGE: MChaplin

PERANCES:

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s): *b1*  
Declassify: (X) In Part ( ) In Full  
(X) Classify as *C* ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date *6/6/01* Declassify on Reason *25X1*

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2. Enboffs pointed out that time for dialogue was rapidly slipping away as legislation was being considered in US Congress which could impose further rigid constraints on US policy. Moreover, there were decisions that USG had to make with xx regard to loan proposals shortly coming before international lending institutions and we were unable to provide any information which could show significant improvement in the human rights situation in Argentina. We asked where and when Argentines would be prepared to initiate such a dialogue.

3. Arlia responded that bilateral discussions could begin at Grenada and continue thereafter.
- ✓ the ~~PALE~~ OAS meeting in ~~Grenada~~/ Foreign Minister Montes, Grenada
  - ✓ Undersecretary Allara and Arlia will attend ~~Grenada~~/meeting initiating important and, said Arlia, they look forward to ~~having important dis-~~ ~~ussions~~ discussions with Secretary Vance, Assistant Secretary Todman and other US officials on this ~~next bilateral~~ occasion.

~~EXCERPT~~

4. Arlia stated ~~forth~~ further that Argentines wished to have a full the and complete discussion with us which would get "to/bottom" of the issues involved. It was not clear from this discussion as to what the Argentines wished to say on this subject that we have not heard before. Indeed, Arlia's comments were mixed with familiar statements that Argentina needed more time to sort itself out and that the anti-insurgency effort will continue regardless of actions which US may take. ~~President~~

~~Videbia's personal concerns and moderate opposition to the determination~~

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~~"of the troops" to fight anti-subversion in their own way regardless~~  
~~less of outside disapproval~~ Only thing new he mentioned--new  
for him to admit, that is--was that there were ~~excesses of~~  
positions subversion  
~~positions~~ within armed forces over counter ~~terrorism~~ policy  
ranging from President Videla's personal concern and moderate  
position to the determination "of the troops" to fight ~~anti~~  
subversion in their own way ~~regard~~ regardless of outside  
disapproval. Arlia also mentioned Videla's frankness at  
Caracas press conference in implicitly recognizing that problem  
of disappearance cases at least in part is due to excesses  
on the part of Argentine security forces. Arlia seemed to be  
suggesting that US could play a constructive role rather than  
an exacerbating one without defining what that role should  
be.

5. We note from today's press that Economy Minister Martinez .  
de Hoz is reported to have made similar statement to Treasury  
Secretary Blumenthal to the effect that Argentina agrees with  
US human rights policy. At this writing we do not know how  
deep this new posture goes and what ~~is~~ it really means.

6. The one positive development we can point to on the human  
rights front is the reports we are receiving with respect to  
a new policy for treating terrorists who give themselves up  
and who do not have blood on their hands [ 61

7. Embassy urges that Dept accept ~~Argex~~ Argentine request

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OPTIONAL

for bilateral discussions at OASGA meeting. Should  
Dept agree to bilaterals, we will <sup>to Fonoff</sup> go ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ found  
and press for further details on points which  
Argentines are prepared to discuss in these talks,  
and what results might flow from them.

8. Argentine proposal for dialogue could be stillborn  
if USG forced to vote against loans to GOA scheduled  
for consideration in IFIs in next two weeks. While  
we are not optimistic that significant results can  
be achieved from dialogue, or even that GOA has clear  
idea of what it is proposing, we do strongly urge that every  
opportunity to influence situation here be fully explored  
before USG resorts to ~~XXXXX~~ ultimate sanction of negative  
vote in IFI. This <sup>could</sup> ~~XXXXX~~ be opportunity to demonstrate  
that <sup>persuasion</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ with the threat of sanction is far more  
effective than imposition of sanction itself. If  
dialogue proves unproductive, time lost would not be  
too high a price to pay.

9. Department's comments requested soonest.

CHAPLIN *me*

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10